

2 JUNE 1987 (FINAL)

REMARKS BY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
JUDGE WILLIAM H. WEBSTER  
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR WILLIAM J. CASEY  
2 JUNE 1987

SOPHIA (MRS. CASEY), BERNADETTE (DAUGHTER), MEMBERS OF THE CASEY FAMILY, AND MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE FAMILY:

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF A GREAT MAN. ALL OF US WHO KNEW BILL CASEY WERE VERY MUCH AWARE OF HOW HE LOVED AND RESPECTED THE INTELLIGENCE BUSINESS, THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, AND ALL OF YOU WHO WORKED FOR HIM. AND, OF COURSE, THAT LOVE AND RESPECT WAS RECIPROCATED BY ALL OF YOU IN THE FULLEST POSSIBLE MEASURE. HE WAS MY GOOD FRIEND. WE TRAVELED THOUSANDS OF MILES TOGETHER. I'M NOT A GOLFER BUT WHEN I PLAYED GOLF, I LIKED TO PLAY WITH BILL CASEY. I WAS DRAWN TO BILL AND SOPHIA BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT MY OWN SENSE OF WHAT FAMILY IS ALL ABOUT.

IT IS NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW BILL CASEY CAPTURED YOUR LOYALTY AND ENTHUSIASM. HE SIMPLY COMPELLED IT THROUGH HIS OWN DEDICATION, OPTIMISM AND SPIRIT. AMBASSADOR JEANE KIRKPATRICK, IN THE EULOGY SHE DELIVERED AT BILL CASEY'S FUNERAL MASS, CITED A QUOTATION THAT BILL USED IN ONE OF HIS LAST PUBLIC ADDRESSES. I'D LIKE TO SHARE IT WITH ALL OF YOU NOW BECAUSE I THINK IT CAPTURES BILL'S SPECIAL QUALITIES OF COURAGE AND CONVICTION:

"FAR BETTER IT IS TO DARE MIGHTY THINGS, TO WIN GLORIOUS TRIUMPHS, EVEN THOUGH CHECKERED BY FAILURE, THAN TO TAKE RANK WITH THOSE POOR SPIRITS WHO NEITHER ENJOY MUCH NOR SUFFER MUCH, BECAUSE THEY LIVE IN THE GRAY TWILIGHT THAT KNOWS NOT VICTORY NOR DEFEAT."

ALTHOUGH BILL IN THAT SPEECH WAS QUOTING TEDDY ROOSEVELT, HE WAS ACTUALLY DESCRIBING HIS OWN PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY AND THE SPIRIT HE BEGAN TO IMBUE IN THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY THE VERY FIRST DAY HE TOOK OVER THE HELM SIX YEARS AGO.

IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THIS SPEECH AND QUOTATION WAS NOT GIVEN BEFORE ONE OF BILL'S TYPICAL AUDIENCES -- NOT BEFORE A GATHERING OF THE CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY, OR THE ELITE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT. BILL, RATHER, WAS TALKING TO A GATHERING OF BOY SCOUTS AND HIS THEME WAS THAT NEVER IN THIS NATION'S HISTORY, AND I QUOTE BILL HERE: "HAVE WE BEEN IN GREATER NEED OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S COURAGE, REALISM, AND ABSOLUTELY OVERWHELMING SENSE OF OPTIMISM ABOUT THIS COUNTRY AND WHAT IT CAN ACHIEVE."

SIMPLY PUT, BILL CASEY LOVED HIS COUNTRY DEEPLY, WORRIED ABOUT ITS FUTURE, AND WANTED TO IMBUE US -- FROM THE BOY SCOUTS ON UP -- WITH HIS OWN SPIRIT, PATRIOTISM AND COMMITMENT. PERHAPS THE BEST TRIBUTE TO BILL'S MEMORY THAT I AND ALL OF YOU CAN MAKE IS TO PLEDGE THAT WE WILL NEVER SQUANDER OR SEE DIMINISHED THE LEGACY AND THE SPIRIT THAT BILL CASEY LEFT FOR US HERE AT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE WITH US THIS MORNING TO SPEAK ABOUT  
BILL CASEY, JOHN A. BROSS, KNOWN TO MOST OF YOU FOR HIS MANY  
YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
AGENCY, AND A LONG-TIME PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE CASEY FAMILY.

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